

- 22 -

What is claimed is:

1. A demodulator circuit for emulating the down conversion of an input signal $x(t)$ with a local oscillator (LO) signal, said demodulator circuit comprising:
a first mixer for receiving said input signal $x(t)$, and mixing said input signal $x(t)$ with a multi-tonal mixing signal φ_1 , to generate an output signal $\varphi_1 x(t)$;
a second mixer for receiving said signal $\varphi_1 x(t)$ as an input, and mixing said signal $\varphi_1 x(t)$ with a mono-tonal mixing signal φ_2 , to generate an output signal $\varphi_1 \varphi_2 x(t)$;
a first signal generator for generating said multi-tonal mixing signal φ_1 ;
a second signal generator for generating said mono-tonal mixing signal φ_2 , where
 $\varphi_1 * \varphi_2$ has significant power at the frequency of said local oscillator signal
being emulated; and
a power measurement circuit for measuring the power of said output signal $\varphi_1 \varphi_2$
 $x(t)$;
said second signal generator receiving a power level signal output from said power
measurement circuit, and varying the characteristics of said mono-tonal
mixing signal φ_2 to reduce the power level of said output signal $\varphi_1 \varphi_2 x(t)$.
2. The circuit of claim 1 wherein said second signal generator varies the
frequency of said φ_2 signal.
3. The circuit of claim 2 wherein said second signal generator comprises a
voltage controlled oscillator (VCO).
4. The circuit of claim 3 wherein said second signal generator comprises:
a means for detecting changes in output power over time; and
a frequency control circuit which directs said VCO to incrementally adjust the
frequency of said φ_2 signal in response to changes in output power over
time.
5. The circuit of claim 4 wherein said frequency control circuit responds to a
falling trend in said power level over time by directing said VCO to continue
adjusting the frequency of said φ_2 signal in the same manner that it has
been.

- 23 -

6. The circuit of claim 4 wherein said frequency control circuit responds to a rising trend in said power level over time by directing said VCO to invert the sense of the incremental adjustments being made to the frequency of said φ_2 signal.
7. The circuit of claim 4 wherein said frequency control circuit further comprises means for smoothing changes in values of said output power, improving stability.
8. The circuit of claim 4 wherein said means for detecting changes in output power comprises:
a power measurement device with digital output;
a time delay device for receiving said digital output from said power measurement device and delaying said digital output; and
a comparator for comparing a current digital output to a delayed digital output, thereby determining whether power level is rising or falling over time.
9. The circuit of claim 5 further comprising a means for setting initial conditions of said frequency control circuit.
10. The circuit of claim 5 further comprising a clock which establishes timing for sampling and processing of output power signals for said frequency control circuit.
11. The circuit of claim 2 wherein neither of said φ_1 nor said φ_2 signals have significant power at the carrier frequency of said input signal $x(t)$.
12. The circuit of claim 11 wherein neither of said φ_1 nor said φ_2 signals have significant power at the carrier frequency of said LO signal being emulated.
13. The circuit of claim 1 wherein said first signal generator comprises a signal generator for generating square wave signals.
14. The circuit of claim 1 wherein said second signal generator comprises a signal generator for generating square wave signals.

- 24 -

15. The circuit of claim 1 wherein unwanted power at baseband is minimized by adjusting the frequency of said ϕ_2 signal such that unwanted RF tones do not fall within the frequency range of the desired signal at baseband.
16. The circuit of claim 1 wherein unwanted power at baseband is minimized by adjusting the frequency of said ϕ_2 signal so that the probability of unwanted RF tones falling within the frequency range of $\phi_1 * \phi_2 x(t)$ is significantly reduced.
17. The circuit of claim 1 wherein said second signal generator varies the phase of said ϕ_2 signal.
18. The circuit of claim 1 wherein said second signal generator is responsive to noise in said output signal $\phi_1 \phi_2 x(t)$ by adjusting the frequency of ϕ_2 .
19. The circuit of claim 3 wherein said first mixer comprises an active mixer.
20. The circuit of claim 19 wherein said first mixer comprises an active mixer having adjustable performance.
21. The circuit of claim 19 further comprising a high pass filter electrically connected between said first mixer and said second mixer.
22. The circuit of claim 21 wherein said second mixer comprises a passive mixer.
23. The circuit of claim 22, wherein each of said active mixer, said high pass filter and said passive mixer is a differential device.
24. A method of emulating the demodulation of an input signal $x(t)$ to the product of said input signal with a local oscillator (LO) signal, said method comprising the steps of:
generating a multi-tonal mixing signal ϕ_1 ;
generating a mono-tonal mixing signal ϕ_2 , where $\phi_1 * \phi_2$ has significant power at the frequency of the local oscillator signal being emulated, and neither of said ϕ_1 nor said ϕ_2 having significant power at the frequency of said input signal

- 25 -

$x(t)$, said LO signal being emulated, or an output signal $\varphi_1 \varphi_2 x(t)$;
mixing said input signal $x(t)$ with said multi-tonal mixing signal φ_1 , to generate an
output signal $\varphi_1 x(t)$;
mixing said signal $\varphi_1 x(t)$ with said mono-tonal mixing signal φ_2 , to generate said
output signal $\varphi_1 \varphi_2 x(t)$;
measuring the power of said output signal $\varphi_1 \varphi_2 x(t)$; and
adjusting the characteristics of said mono-tonal mixing signal φ_2 to minimize the
power of said output signal $\varphi_1 \varphi_2 x(t)$.

25. A computer readable memory medium for storing software code executable
to perform the method steps of claim 24.
26. A computer readable memory medium for storing hardware development
code to fabricate the device of any one of claims 1 through 23.